

Cranberry Chronicle

NEWS OF CRANBERRY HOUSE AND GREAT CRANBERRY ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Congregational Church of Cranberry Island

PHIL WHITNEY

Congregational Church of Cranberry Island,
ca. late 1940s - early 1950s
GCIHS COLLECTION

The Congregational Church on Great Cranberry Island has a long history of being the island center for religious services, marriages, memorial services, baptisms and occasional concerts, entertainment and historical programs, and even a rare Annual Town Meeting. It also holds the distinction of being the first and only island church.

The people of the Cranberry Isles for many years attended worship in the old “southern” meeting house near Southwest Harbor, and some services were attended as far away as Beech Hill. This was in the days when transport by water to Southwest Harbor was either by rowboat or small sailing boat, and overland travel was by horse-drawn buckboard. This made for very long days to attend church services. Elder Norton was a church leader during these times who preached the doctrine of the Free Will Baptists.

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GREAT CRANBERRY ISLAND
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Notes of Appreciation

*We wish to thank the following individuals
for their volunteer support of Cranberry
House and GCIHS this past summer and fall:*

● **Volunteer Shuttle Drivers**

Many thanks to the drivers who donated many hours this summer to keep the Cranberry Explorer running:

Jim Bradley, Nicole Comiskey, Tim Dalton, Laurie Dobson, Jim Gertmenian, Josh Hastings, Paul Hewes, Cheryl Moore, Walter Moore, Jim Singerling, Darlene Sumner, Barbara Ware, Karin Whitney, Phil Whitney

● **Volunteer Museum Receptionists**

Many thanks to the receptionists who greeted Museum visitors all summer and gave them an appreciation of the history of the Cranberry Isles:

Elaine Buchsbaum, Mary Corley, Laurie Dobson, Willoughby Hastings, Miriam Hinnant, Chris Johnston, Karin Whitney, Phil Whitney, Nancy Wood

● **Blair Colby**

For continued rapid response to minor emergencies such as Cranberry Explorer repairs.

● **Bob Hudson**

For installation of the Blue Heron pond aerator and repairs to the Cranberry House stairwell and original window.

● **Chris Johnston**

For always being there whenever/wherever needed.

● **Rosalie Kell**

For dedicated perfectionist efforts in editing the *Cranberry Chronicle*.

● **Kathe Simons**

For her continued efforts in supporting Rosalie in perfecting the editorial process.

● **Darlene Sumner**

For coordinating many successful events as Chairman of the Events Committee.

● **Karin Whitney**

For general back-up support everywhere needed the entire season.

● **Brad & Lib Woodworth**

For their continued support in the design and printing coordination of the *Cranberry Chronicle*.

Milestones

Passings

4.30.17 Lydia Lyman
7.24.17 Owen Roberts
8.3.17 Richard Dudman
8.24.17 John Nevius
9.15.17 Wini Smart

Marriages

9.19.17 Sam Donald & Sharon Smith

Past Puzzler

Phil Whitney correctly identified the older boy as Malcolm 'Mac' Stanley, brother of Hazel Stanley 'Snooks' Peterson and son of Enoch Stanley but the younger boy remains a mystery.



New Puzzler

Selected by Phil Whitney. Please identify the three individuals in the foreground of the photograph below and tell us the story. Send your answers to info@gcihs.org.



President's Report

PHIL WHITNEY

Poetry and music were emphasized this season. Sam King and Michael Glaser of Great Cranberry Island and Starr Bright of Islesford all presented entertaining evenings of poetry readings. Sam also conducted two poetry classes. The concerts, some including reserved seat dinners, proved wildly popular, and presented a potpourri of musical styles.



We experienced another very active and productive summer season at Cranberry House. Nearly 60 volunteers provided much-needed support for our operations, offering varying amounts of time, and diverse skills and interests. Their efforts have been very much appreciated, as always.



We offered the usual diverse menu of activities and programs, appealing to both younger and older folks. The professional expertise of Archivist Anne Grulich contributed to a highly popular nautical chart exhibition in the museum chronicling the 1870-1880s voyages under sail of Meltiah and Carrie Richardson to Spain and the Caribbean. Our archives underwent an assessment by Friends of Island History and Anne Grulich has been working with Matt McFarland on redesigning the website, (see pages 16-18).

Darlene Sumner, Chair of the Events Committee, and her committee members worked extremely hard this year to plan and implement some great programs. Poetry and music were emphasized this season. Sam King and Michael Glaser of Great Cranberry Island and Starr Bright of Islesford all presented entertaining evenings of poetry readings. Sam also conducted two poetry classes.

The concerts, some including reserved seat dinners, proved wildly popular, and presented a potpourri of musical styles. The Big Moose Band showcased nine musicians playing classics and newer tunes while the audience danced and sang in the aisle, while afterwards a delicious dinner was served on the cafe deck. The Acadia Classical Music Trio offered a high-class night of entertainment after the fashionably-dressed audience had enjoyed a delicious candlelight dinner at their tables. Pixie Lauer and Friends hosted a folk music songfest which attracted a full house of appreciative music fans. Finally, the seven and nine-year-old granddaughters of Michael Glaser, as part of their Family Night of Poetry and Music, presented an amazing violin recital which proved they may well be the best violinists in their age group in America, resulting in extended audience ovations. All these shows were landmark memorable nights this summer, and showed how far Cranberry House has developed in ten years of presenting quality entertainment on Cranberry Island.

Hitty's Café, under the 4th year of Chef César Ferreira's guidance, and aided by generally outstanding nice weather, did great business all season. The Cranberry Explorer, although still very popular when running, lost two weeks of revenue during the peak of July, when a serious breakdown sidelined it.

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*Ben Sumner and daughter
Kariah measuring zucchini.*

**Ben Sumner -
General Manager
of the
Great Cranberry
Island Historical
Society**

We are happy to announce that Ben Sumner was chosen as the new General Manager of the GCIHS. Prior to becoming General Manager in September, Ben assisted Jim Bradley with GCIHS book-keeping duties and volunteered on the Operations Committee. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia and, prior to relocating to Great Cranberry, spent several years practicing the skill and art of logging with draft horses. He also serves as the Deputy Town Clerk for the Town of Cranberry Isles. Ben lives on Great Cranberry Island with his wife, Darlene, and four children.

Significant improvements to the property this past season included the installation of a pond aerator in the Blue Heron Pond to better circulate the water and reduce pond algae. (I might add some rainbow trout caught this summer have grown considerably, and exceeded (13") in length). A new generator was installed which will provide power to the entire Cranberry House in the event of power outages in summer or winter. The roof was completely re-shingled and extensive trim painting completed. Beautiful new barn doors were built on the shed housing the buckboard to provide better protection against inclement weather. This was both an artistic and engineering success by the talented Jesse Jameson and crew.

Personnel transitions were prominent – a mixture of bittersweet and sad. General Manager Jessi Duma departed after one year to pursue a Master's Degree in Public Health (and other personal pursuits!) She was a wonderful presence at Cranberry House for her two years as an Island Fellow before assuming the newly-created General Manager position. We welcomed Ben Sumner as her replacement as General Manager. Ben has previously been employed as Bookkeeper and been volunteering with many other activities on the property. It's both a pleasure (and a relief) to find someone of his capabilities and pleasant presence to follow in Jessi's footsteps. We also noted with regret the passing of former Trustee and ardent GCIHS supporter Owen Roberts on July 24th, and former President Wini Smart on September 15th. Wini was the visionary force behind the acquisition and initial developmental ideas which became Cranberry House.

Finally, we have been involved with extensive planning in preparation for a Fundraising Campaign for the coming year, (see page 19). The goal is to raise enough money to fund our Archiving and General Manager positions for the long term, accomplish several capital projects, and place the GCIHS/Cranberry House on solid financial footing for the foreseeable future. In this regard, we have contracted with the professional fundraising firm of Gary Friedmann & Associates of Bar Harbor.

As the years pass by, and personnel come and go, I hope you will remember the fine programs we have presented here over the past ten years: (TEN YEARS!) "Something for everyone" we often say as we plan ahead for each year.

Please support us as we attempt to ensure the future of Cranberry House and the Historical Society, and also contribute to the future of the Cranberry community.

General Manager's Report

BEN SUMNER

The Great Cranberry Island Historical Society is the result of the faithful and ongoing efforts of volunteers from a wide variety of backgrounds and perspectives who have united behind their attachment to, and affection for, this island.



With the 2017 season coming to a close, the *Cranberry Chronicle* is again full of reports on activities and events that have taken place over this summer as well as programs the Great Cranberry Island Historical Society is working to create and maintain. In June 2017, the Society was awarded \$3,000 by the Maine Office of Tourism for improving and marketing our website and social media presence. The website (GCIHS.org) has a new look and we will be working throughout the winter to make further improvements. Our effort to provide more complete, interactive on-line access to our collections is now underway thanks to an extension of the Organizational Development Grant from the Maine Arts Commission (see page 18).

This will be the second year that funding for the General Manager position will be provided by the Buchanan Family Foundation. Jessica Duma did a tremendous job during the first year to bring together in a cohesive fashion the varied aspects that comprise this small, but vibrant, organization. In addition to the functions normally associated with a historical society — a museum and a growing archival collection — the Society also maintains a retail operation (the Museum Store), commercial real estate (Hitty's Café and the 300 Cranberry Road Workshop), residential real estate (also at 300 Cranberry Road - Bruce Komusin's cabin), public transportation (the Cranberry Explorer), and public attractions (through the Arts Center and as a hub for GCI's expanding trail network). In an age where things might be small, but they will not be simple, I consider myself fortunate to have the opportunity to build upon the foundation Jessi has already thoroughly prepared.

The upcoming year will be very crucial for the long-term sustainability of the Society and the nature of its operation. While the Trustees and the Campaign Committee lay out the vision for the Society and the framework through which to bring that vision to life, I will be working with our volunteers and committees to maintain and enhance our existing programs. As you read the *Cranberry Chronicle*, I hope you will join me in taking some time to consider what has been created here, what continues to take shape in this place, and what the possibilities are. The Great Cranberry Island Historical Society is the result of the faithful and ongoing efforts of volunteers from a wide variety of backgrounds and perspectives who have united behind their attachment to, and affection for, this island.

We are always looking for new ways to make use of the Arts Center. Also, consider taking a trip or two behind the wheel of the Cranberry Explorer next summer. Many hands make light work and volunteers usually find it to be pleasant in small doses. As travelers ourselves, I think we all appreciate authenticity in our experience. The Explorer and the Museum are both good ways to bring your unique perspective of the island to casual visitors and I hope each of you who are able will consider sharing your island community experience.

A Wonderful Thank You Trip for Our Volunteers

ELAINE BUCHSBAUM

We thank the Maine Sea Coast Mission for the opportunity to enjoy a trip on the Sunbeam to Frenchboro.

We greatly appreciate the efforts of the residents of Frenchboro who welcomed us to their community and let us experience some of their life on the Island.

And thank you to the folks at the Great Cranberry Island Historical Society for arranging this “Thank You” for those who enjoy helping out at Cranberry House.



Visitors and hosts in the sanctuary of the island church

Early on Sunday, September 3rd, a group of volunteers from the Great Cranberry Island Historical Society met at the town dock to board the *Sunbeam* for a trip to Frenchboro. The day’s activity was planned as a thank you to the many volunteers who help us keep things going at Cranberry House. A group of about 25 people boarded the ship with great anticipation. The *Sunbeam* is operated by the Maine Seacoast Mission.

The purpose of the Seacoast Mission is to build healthier communities, stronger families, and brighter futures – by land and by sea. This statement is included on their website. They have been “a trusted friend along the Maine coast for more than 100 years.” From healthcare for fishermen to food for families and life-changing opportunities for kids, the Maine Seacoast Mission has been making life better on Maine’s islands and along the Downeast coast since 1905.

As we boarded the *Sunbeam* we were greeted by staff and friends of the Seacoast Mission. We were welcomed aboard with home-baked muffins and cake and piping hot coffee and tea. We soon set off on our journey of about one hour in length. Although rough seas were expected later in the day from one of the many storms to come up the East Coast during this past fall’s active hurricane season, our ride over to Frenchboro was a very pleasant one.

Once we docked at Frenchboro we had a wonderful 15-minute walk into “town.” For those who didn’t care to walk, a kind Islander met us with a car to transport folks. Once at the center of town, we had many options as to how to spend our time. Those who wished to were invited to attend the 10 am church service in the beautiful Island church along with the local residents. The service was led by Scott Planting, President of the Maine Seacoast Mission, with able support and fellowship with local island residents. After the service, our group was invited to see the local Museum, the Library, and the charming one room Schoolhouse which has 4 children in attendance this year. We met with the teacher who explained much to us about the operation of the Frenchboro School. The Museum and Library are housed in the same building. The Museum is extensive and even has a lovely gift shop. The Library is quite extensive and contains a number of comfy rooms which invite the patron to curl up and enjoy the material included within.

When we were done exploring the Church, Museum, Library, and Schoolhouse, we took our 15-minute walk back to the *Sunbeam* and set out for our trip back to Great Cranberry. When we boarded we were presented with a wonderful homemade lunch of soups, salads, and an assortment of desserts. Again, we had hot drinks and cider. Our timing was impeccable because the seas remained calm until we finished eating. Then we experienced some of the rough seas that had been promised that day, which resulted from the hurricane south of us along the Coast. But we all did well and very much enjoyed the time we had together as we rode back to Great Cranberry.

*Clockwise from right:
The galley of the Sunbeam,
The Frenchboro ferry wharf,
Lunt Harbor, Frenchboro,
Story King, Engineer of the Sunbeam,
Nancy Wood of Great Cranberry Island*





*The original Union Meeting
House ca. 1863 renamed
The Congregational Church of
Cranberry Island in the 1890s*
GCIHS COLLECTION



*Stained glass window over
the altar of the church dedicated
to Rev. Charles Harwood*
GCIHS COLLECTION

The Union Meeting House (the forerunner of the current Congregational Church) was erected in 1863, during the height of the Civil War. Initially, services were held in the building by different denominations. Little is known about this era. The basement may have been utilized for community social functions, judging from studying its construction and the apparent absence of any other sizeable facility on the island. Legend has it the church-going people fought among themselves during the immediate years after the Union Meeting House was built, and for approximately 30 years minimal use was made of the building for church services. (It should be noted the currently-named “Ladies Aid” was established in 1861, if later transcribed records are accurate. But a fight developed among the members soon after, and the “Mutual Improvement and Benevolent Society,” as it was originally known, had 16 of its 38 members secede in May, 1862. It could be said that “Civil Wars” were breaking out all over during this era.)

The first pastorate of the Congregational Denomination began with Rev. Charles Harwood in 1894 and terminated with his death in 1897. He was reportedly deeply loved and respected by his people. He is considered the first year-round resident pastor on Great Cranberry Island. He led an effort to repair the neglected Union Meeting House. He was also influential in encouraging the Northeast Harbor summer residents to take an interest in the welfare of the Great Cranberry community. In memory of this faithful pastor, a circular window was placed in the chancery of the Union Meeting House.

The next minister, Rev. Charles Davie, began a pastorate of seven years, lasting from 1897 to 1904. It was during his pastorate that the Congregational Church of Cranberry Isles was officially organized. Depending on various sources, this occurred either on June 25, 1899 or August 30, 1899. Included in his efforts was the construction of the Congregational Church on Islesford in 1898. (*Entries in church record books after he departed in 1904 noted he was a “good worker,” which seems rather an understatement.*) The renovation of the former Union Meeting House on Great Cranberry included construction of a steeple which, legend has it, was severely damaged by a lightning strike and replaced by the current, less imposing, steeple. The basic architecture of the building has remained the same over the years, except in 1913 an addition was installed on the back side to house the horse-drawn hearse, used in island funerals. (This space is still commonly referred to as “The Hearse House,” even though the hearse has long since disintegrated in Ken Schmidt’s back yard, and its current use is for church golf cart storage and the minister’s office.)

The church organization established its original by-laws in 1906. After Rev. Davie departed, Rev. Alexander McDonald was hired as resident year-round minister in the Spring of 1905. Rev. McDonald was instrumental in assisting church members to solidify the existing organizational structure. He departed in late 1906 to become the Superintendent of the Maine Seacoast Mission, helping the organization to continue a long and supportive relationship with the Cranberry Church which has lasted to the present day. He also subsequently assisted the church in supplying temporary ministers in

Rev. Donald Wells showed up one August day in 1979 – and never left (at least in August). This past August he celebrated his 38th year of supporting the Congregational Church of Cranberry Island.

winter and summer until late 1907. The Congregational churches of the Cranberry Isles in this era included in its oversight all the families in the Town of Cranberry Isles, but for the better management of local business affairs in connection with the churches, the families on Great Cranberry, Sutton, and Bear were incorporated as the Congregational Church of Cranberry Isles. The families on Islesford and Baker Island were incorporated in the Congregational Society of Islesford. (It was noted in church logs on 2/25/06 that “it was voted to hold Sunday services on Sutton Island once every four weeks,”) The GCI church name was revised in 2004 to reflect “The Congregational Church of Cranberry Island” (singular).

There were a series of resident ministers serving the church beginning in 1907, interspersed with temporary guest ministers who came mostly in the summer months.

At right, the ministers are listed chronologically into the 1960s.

1907 – 1909	Rev. Carlton Bolles	Year-Round
1912 – 1913	Rev. Fred Tingley	Year-Round
1914 – 1917	Rev. Albert Knight He enlisted in the military during WWI and departed GCI. No further mention was made of Rev. Knight again.	Year-Round
1920 – 1932	Rev. Charles Gordon Cumming	Summer
1932 – 1935	Rev. Daniel Fox	Year-Round
1935 – 1939	Rev. James Ford	Year-Round
1940 – 1951	Rev. Melvin Hutchins Church records indicate “He was a man of wonderful character. Gentle and kind”	Year-Round
1951 – 1960	Rev. Charles Gordon Cumming	Summer
1963	Rev. Harry Lauer	Summer
1964	Rev. Herbert Reece	Summer

Several observations are worth mentioning: Rev. Cumming was the longest serving summer minister (21 years) until Rev. Donald Wells. Rev. Hutchins was the longest serving year-round minister (11 years), and the last year-round minister until Rev. Tom Powell.

In the mid-1960s, church records became sketchier. From 1965 to the early 1970s Rev. Harold Mortimer was the summer minister. Rev. Arthur Forrester served a number of years in the 1970s, and Rev. Stephen Bradley came for many summers in the 1980s and early 1990s. Sometime during this period the tradition began of hosting two summer ministers, one primarily in July, the other in August. Rev. Renita Banks served 15 years as the July minister, breaking her tenure in 2017.

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*Congregational Church
of Cranberry Island*
GCIHS COLLECTION

Rev. Donald Wells showed up one August day in 1979 – and never left (at least in August). This past August he celebrated his 38th year of supporting the Congregational Church of Cranberry Island. His service has been exemplary; he has also become an island institution.

Although the church history has been somewhat routine over the years, occasionally there have been abnormal events. During one Sunday church service in the late 1960s, Addie Duren, an elderly island resident, came crashing through the church doors shouting, “Help me! Help me! My house is on fire!” The entire congregation rushed outside and down the street to her house (currently the Ron Mountain residence), which was heavily damaged but saved from total destruction.



*Christmas service 1989.
Ruth (at the piano), Angela,
Abbie, Audra (behind),
Hannah (behind), Martha,
Josh(?), James, Scott (behind),
Jeremy (behind Martha), girl
in front (?), unknown, Gabriel,
Molly, Brendan Westphal,
Christina, Megan Liebow.*

GCIHS COLLECTION

Over the decades there have been several interesting anecdotes gleaned from the church records. On June 25th, 1899 the reorganized church baptized 13 adult island church members. (That must have been a long church service that day.) In 1910, church minutes reflected a vote to establish a Solicitation Committee to collect funds towards acquiring a parsonage. The committee was composed of Mrs. Bert Birlem, Mrs. Millard Spurling, and Mrs. Samuel Bulger. A further review of future church minutes does not indicate what progress they made. Between 1930 - 1936 church membership ranged between 22 - 35. In 1944, it was noted in the *Congregational Churches Yearbook* the church was valued at \$3000. (To put this in perspective, it nowadays costs more to just paint the church.) In the 1950s,

a vacation bible school was conducted, although records do not indicate who coordinated this. In the 1980s, a children's church choir was formed. The kids even had gowns to wear when programs were presented.

In more recent times, a number of significant developments occurred which supported church spiritual goals and strengthened both church operations and the community as a whole. The Maine Seacoast Mission (MSM) through the decades, as previously noted, had provided support via visits by the *Sunbeam* and provision of minister services. This support became more established in the 1970s onward with fairly regular, monthly visits throughout the offseason. MSM ministers such as Stan Haskell, Ted Hoskins, and Rob Benson became valued friends and spiritual advisors to many Cranberry Island people. During a reorganization period around 2005, after a careful review of church records and finances, it was discovered that a fondly-remembered summer resident, Howard Bacon, a devoted church supporter, had bequeathed a substantial number of stocks to the church upon his death in 1948. Their value had increased dramatically over the ensuing decades, putting the church in a position to move forward with future projects.

Each November “Operation Christmas Child,” designed to send Christmas support packages to marginalized children around the world, is organized and boxes of gifts and supplies are donated by the island community.

In 2011, the Ladies Aid made a very generous offer to donate the parsonage to the Church. The 1832 era building was readily accepted by the Church, and decisions were made to totally renovate it to modern standards. Thus nearly \$300,000 was spent to dig a whole new full basement, add a third bedroom, enhance second floor access, address safety concerns, and install new heating systems.

Combined with all this the Church, after much deliberation in conjunction with the Islesford church, made the momentous decision to seek the services of a year-round minister to serve both islands. Tom and Becca Powell moved into the parsonage in September, 2014. The churches have offered weekly Sunday services year-round ever since.

Other recent changes included:

2010	Restoring all the church windows to pristine condition;
2014	Cleaning out the church basement of old storage debris and providing the Futures Group space for a gym;
2015	Renovating a basement room for the Futures Group to store medical equipment;
2015	Insulating the basement to prevent heat loss;
2015	Renovations to the church storage closet;
2015	Renovated the Hearse House into an office for the minister.
2016	Constructing rear access steps to the basement; and
2016	Digging a new well for the Parsonage.

Future projects planned for 2017 – 2018 include extensive repairs to the front porch and front wall, and painting the entire church.

On going projects have included mowing the island cemeteries throughout the summer to ensure their good appearance, and providing monetary support, in partnership with the Historical Society, to repair and restore both the Stanley and the Spurling Cove Revolutionary War Cemeteries.

The church has also expanded its outreach programs. With initiatives from new island residents and support from the island minister, a summer Vacation Bible School and winter kids’ Sunday School were established on both islands. Each November “Operation Christmas Child,” designed to send Christmas support packages to marginalized children around the world, is organized and boxes of gifts and supplies are donated by the island community. Additionally, missionary support for the Colegio Moriah School in the Dominican Republic, in the form of volunteers from the church and donations of supplies, has become an annual event.

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Tom and Becca Powell moved into the renovated parsonage in September, 2014.

PHOTO: JERI D. SPURLING, ARCHITECT

**Church Presidents
have included in
chronological order:**

**John Pressey
George Bulger
Charles Gott
John Hamor
Carl Hardy, Sr.
Carl Hardy, Jr.
Allison Bunker
Gaile Colby
Beverly Sanborn
Phil Whitney**

*A recent service at the
Congregational Church of
Cranberry Island.*

PHOTO: ROSALIE KELL



Over the years the Congregational Church of Cranberry Island has remained the only church on the island. It is not uncommon during the summer months to have many denominations represented in the pews. It continues as a community center primarily for spiritually-oriented events. During the summer months, May thru October, when attendance is often large, the church is utilized. In the off season, services move to either the Ladies Aid or Cranberry House. The Church continues as an important part of the Cranberry community offering services, space for events, and religious programs, as well as less visible support serving the needs of individuals and families on the islands.

The Events Committee Report

DARLENE SUMNER

Below: Compilation of photos that capture the spirit of the island summer events.

PHOTOS: WILLOUGHBY HASTINGS

The Events Committee met over thirty times this year from February through September. Their creativity and enthusiasm resulted in a full calendar of events, offering a variety of interesting opportunities for all ages and interests. These included, but were not limited to, fishing at Blue Heron Pond, toddler art, karaoke, yoga, movies, poetry readings, lobstering demonstrations, and trail walks. There were also extended art exhibits from Willoughby Hastings, Kayla Gagnon, and the annual Art of the Cranberry Isles.

The Cranberry House hosted two successful fundraising events that included dinner and music, Big Moose Concert and Brazilian Dinner featured the Big Moose band with dinner provided by César Ferreira of Hitty's Café and Ellenberger Chamber Trio Concert and Supper.

Our Annual Open House was held in July during which we recognized the generous contributions of community members Louise Millar and Mickey Macfarlan. Many of our events begin as an idea of a person wanting to share his or her talents with the island. The abundance of talented community members willing to share makes the committee's work much easier. Feel free to contact Ben Sumner at manager@gcihs.org with ideas or suggestions you may have for next year.



Support Cranberry House

- **Become a Friend of GCIHS:**
Friend: \$25
Family Friend: \$50
Donor: \$100
Supporter: \$250
Patron: \$500
Benefactor: \$1,000+

- **Support Special Projects** through your extra special contributions.

- **Donate in Honor of a Loved One**

- **Fill the Donation Jars** at the museum and on the shuttle, or at movies, lectures, and other events.

Whatever you can afford, we will sincerely appreciate it. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit institution, contributions are tax deductible.

- **Remember – one forward-thinking person began the process with a single donation. Look what's happened in just ten years!**

The Times are Exciting and Your Support is Appreciated

ELAINE BUCHSBAUM

As you read this edition of the *Cranberry Chronicle* the busy times at Cranberry House are but a memory for many of you. Summer activities are past. We can all think back fondly on the lectures, movies, art exhibitions, children's programs, karaoke, open houses and music. It is hard to believe that soon after you read this, planning will begin in earnest for next summer's rush. At the moment, Cranberry House is quieter, but movies, yoga and guitar lessons are taking place just to name a few activities. I don't think Cranberry House and the Historical Society are ever really quiet anymore.

As you will read in another section of this edition of the *Cranberry Chronicle* (see page 19), we anticipate exciting times ahead. Our Capital Campaign will begin in full force in the Spring. Through this Campaign we hope to secure the future for Cranberry House operations. You will read more about this endeavor in the months to come.

As I say in each edition of the *Cranberry Chronicle*, we are a volunteer group and we count on you for any financial support you are able to give, and hope that you will contribute as a volunteer as well. We are always looking for Board of Director members, Museum docents, and busy hands to help us with all our activities. There is so much talent on Great Cranberry and that talent can help us achieve our goals.

Please consider carefully what you may be able to contribute financially. Through our Friends program you can become a member at various giving levels. Also, remember us during this period of year end giving. Any help is greatly appreciated.

We wish you a wonderful holiday season and a healthy new year. Looking forward to seeing you in 2018!



2017 Donors

Dues and donations
can now be made via PayPal
on the website.

The Board of Trustees recently decided to adopt a Calendar Year system for calculating membership in the GCIHS. Previously, your membership was considered an annual membership from the date of your donation. Going forward, your donation at an indicated membership level will be for the following calendar year.

The 2017 Membership is listed below. An asterisk indicates your membership donation for 2018 has been received. Thank you all for your continued generosity and support.

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Robin Freeman*
Richard Jr. & Joanne Fuerst
Corinne Goodrich*
Henry Isaacs
Hugh Harrison McCall
Emily W. Neilson
Emiline & Marvin Ott
Larry Phillippis & Wanda Getchell
Lisa & Jay Pierrepont
Henryetta A. Ponczek
Henry A. Raup
Nathan Rome & Bonnie Alpert
Damon Silvers

Friends

Dick Atlee & Sarah Corson*
Stephen Bradley
Elsa Comiskey*
Jean Fernald
John A. French*
Juliet G. Gibbs
Jill and Sheldon Goldthwait
Margaret Hall
Steven L. Herrick*
David & Mikki Jones Little
Louise Millar
Caryll (Beal) Moore*
Ronald P. Mountain*
Mary Nevius
Patricia M. Pinkham*
Adrien & Diane Polky
Hannah Singerling
Leslie & Norma Spurling
Jerry Valenta*
Laurie Wadsworth
William & Lena May Wallace
Ruth Westphal*
Michael & Jennifer Westphal

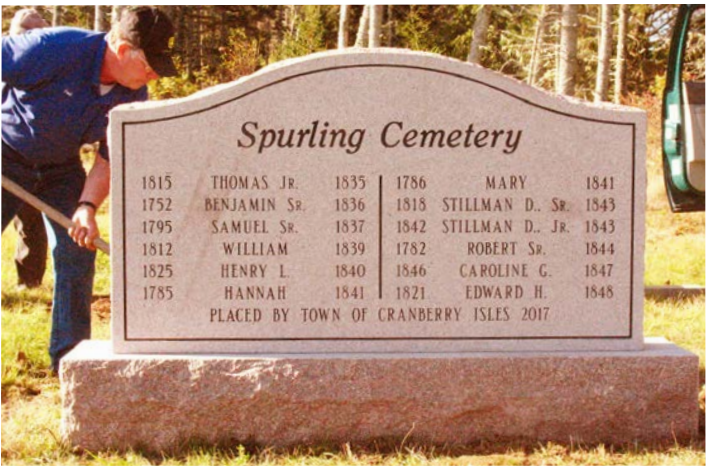
Below left: Stanley Wilbur hoists the Spurling Cemetery Memorial Stone before lowering it on to its base.

Below: The front and back sides of the Spurling Cemetery Memorial Stone

Spurling Cemetery Memorial Stone Installed

At long last, the Spurling Revolutionary War Cemetery preservation project is complete. You may recall that in July 2016, the six extant headstones and footstones overlooking Spurling Cove were repaired and set upright (visit stanleycemetary.com for details). The last lingering piece of the project was the installation of a memorial headstone inscribed with the names of all 26 people known to be interred on the hillside. On October 20, 2017, Fred Wieninger barged his truck and equipment out to GCI along with the 1,800 lb. rose granite memorial marker, its base, and steel-reinforced support. Assisted by Stanley Wilbur, Fred also repaired the broken Benjamin Spurling headstone, and placed Andrew Herrick’s new granite marker where his old cedar cross once stood.

To appreciate this beautiful memorial, you have to visit the cemetery at different times of day. While Wieninger was installing the stone, the Indian summer morning sun captured the rose hue and crisp black lettering of the monument perfectly. But in the afternoon breeze, the long autumn shadows of tall pines wavered across the stone in an ethereal salute. Pausing quietly, I felt strongly that the 26 souls appreciated the tribute. In spring 2018, we hope to have a gathering on the hillside to commemorate these early settlers and thank the Town of Cranberry Isles for its support of this project.



It is not currently possible for GCIHS to eliminate the backlog of processing, imaging, and item-level cataloging within the next three years without external assistance...

FOIH Assessment Report

Collections Assessment – The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly

Last year GCIHS joined a consortium of 15 local history organizations under the umbrella of the Friends of Island History (FOIH). In May, FOIH retained HistoryIT to perform assessments of the collections, catalog systems, and digital initiatives of each of the fifteen organizations. This review was undertaken to “improve storage of and access to the physical collections, develop a plan to create and draw value from a comprehensive digital collection.... and make the critical history the organizations protect optimally available to the public.”

There’s good news and bad news for GCIHS. In a nutshell, our basement archives storage space is poor and our FileMakerPro collections database needs to be replaced. On a scale from 1-10 (one being the lowest), HistoryIT rated the GCIHS archive as follows:

Great Cranberry Island Historical Society Archive Ratings by HistoryIT

Condition:	5
Content:	9
Catalogue:	3-5
Capacity: (ability to work with others and accomplish a great deal of work in a short amount of time)	8
Overall Rating:	6.4

Our overall rating was 6.4. “GCIHS’s overall rating is among the highest of the FOIH participants, placing the society among organizations with funding and staffing resources that far exceed their own. The GCIHS is working diligently to protect its historical collections and engage audiences in the digital realm, but the collections are in critical danger due to the limitations of the current storage space.”

Facility Issues

Basement storage environment is markedly humid, has fluctuating temperatures, and mold is a major threat. Alternative storage for [Hitty’s Café] food must be found to decrease potential exposure to mold and insects. Fire sprinklers located directly over collection materials risk damage to the collections.

Collections Issues

Immediately address the need to conserve and digitize at-risk items like quilts and navigational charts. Migrate catalogue records to a collection management software system with digital asset management. Remove out-of-scope items from the collections area (i.e. the hundreds of items that are earmarked for sale). Adhere to digitization standards to create preservation quality digital images by implementing a plan for organizing, scanning, and cataloging.

HistoryIT realistically observed, “It is not currently possible for GCIHS to eliminate the backlog of processing, imaging, and item-level cataloging within the next three years without external assistance...Nor does the historical society currently have the equipment necessary to comprehensively digitize its collections.”

As part of the assessment process, each museum loaned HistoryIT 50 artifacts to be scanned at the University of Southern Maine’s Osher Map Library for use in developing a collective digital archive. We expect to be able to access to these scans in November when the consortium meets to explore HistoryIT’s prototype web collections project. GCIHS is fortunate to have undergone such a thorough assessment free of charge, and plans to continue working with FOIH efforts to preserve and digitize the entirety of the GCIHS archival holdings and improve the condition of our archives. Please visit www.historyit.org site for a glimpse into their work. And to see one exceptional FOIH project, try islandhistory.newspaperarchive.com.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

Behind the Scenes

As of May 2017,
the GCIHS archive contains
approximately:

150
historical and ethnographic
items including furniture,
tools, and textiles

50
individual ceramic and
glass objects

40
art objects

400
photographs, all processes

50
scrapbooks, albums,
and pamphlets

100
audio and video items, mostly
oral histories

60
linear feet of unbound
archival records

20
maps and other oversized items

25
linear feet of unprocessed
materials

12
linear feet of bound volumes,
including town records

2000
un-cataloged digital photos



New Website!

Have you visited GCIHS.org recently? Thanks to a grant from the Maine Office of Tourism, Matt McFarland, Downeast IT, was hired this spring to design our new website. Downeast IT is a small information technology company located on the coast of Maine. Matt started the business in 2014 with a mission to provide budget-friendly computer and web services to area small businesses. Matt lives in Surry with wife Vicki, son Brett, and daughter Cassie. His website is downeastit.com.

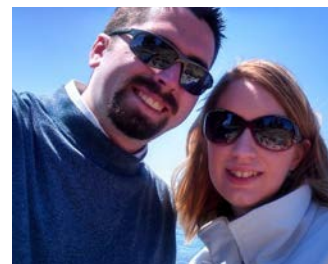
One of the major challenges Matt faced in developing our new website was

to include the decades of research Bruce Komusin had posted on the old site. Unfortunately, Bruce's old, non-standard site was rife with dead ends and blind alleys. Matt diligently tried various patches and fixes in hopes of integrating the old information into today's technology without losing links and photos.

After weeks of testing several different methods, we agreed with Matt we'd bring the old site in as-is and not attempt to modernize it for fear of losing irreplaceable research. So now, in a back-to-the future solution, Bruce's pages are mirrors of what they were and are indexed alphabetically by topic in

the Research section. New research topics will be added to the alpha list, but Bruce's research will remain as it was. (It seems fitting in a way, as Bruce always wanted the last word.)

The site is still a work in progress, but it's nearly done. Matt will continue to host, develop, and service the website for us. Eventually, our video interviews will appear on YouTube, and we'll also make thousands of photographs and improved genealogies available on line. We've even begun migrating to the Omeka platform collections management software thanks to a modification and extension granted us by the Organizational Development Grant from the Maine Arts Commission. So as 2018 dawns, our catalogue will be up and running on our website. We're open to suggestions, so please email info@gcihs.org with your ideas.



Matt & Vicki McFarland,
DowneastIT

A Campaign for Cranberry House

We are thrilled to announce the Great Cranberry Island Historical Society has decided to move ahead with plans for **a fundraising campaign to improve our facility and sustain staff positions.**

The decision was made after we received positive feedback from community meetings held this past summer, combined with strategic planning efforts by trustees.

We have identified several priorities and improvements that need to be made **to ensure the facility continues to be a center of cultural enrichment** for year-round residents and visitors alike.

GCIHS has engaged Gary Friedmann & Associates, a well-known Maine consulting firm, to help us carry out the campaign. **We are in planning stages now** and expect to be able to share more information with you in the next issue of the *Cranberry Chronicle*.

If you have any questions or would like to be involved in the campaign, please contact Phil Whitney.



Ruth Westphal's 4th of July Party, 2009

Fall Boatworks

ROSALIE KELL AND STAFF

Tony Archino teaching Kariah Sumner in the "sheep shack."

Below: Tony Archino with Jessica Sanborn and Gail Grandgent

PHOTOS: ROSALIE KELL



This Fall Tony Archino brought his boatbuilding school to Great Cranberry Island. Temporarily housed in the Murch's barn, aka "sheep-shack", children and adults from both islands can be found working on a St Aysles skiff... with Tony's apt guidance. After 12 years of summer programs on Isleford, it is extremely exciting to have the first ever Fall Boatworks on GCI.

Tony describes the program, "The St. Ayles is a 22' rowing skiff that we'll be able to use in all sorts of ways, including races against neighboring community teams. To get things

rolling, we were fortunate to borrow two St. Ayles skiffs from MDI and Sumner high schools. We've been having fun getting out on the water! A group of teens has been traveling to some local races and we loved being able to row to school during these beautiful weeks of fall."

This is the first time Boatworks has been able to be part of the Longfellow school's curriculum and has been integrated into their school days. Tony goes to the school to teach "boat math," previewing the math concepts that will be needed for the next week's shop work. Working

with the olders (grades 5-8), they've covered topics from fractions to conversions, all the way through to geometry and algebra. It's an effective teaching tool be able to show real-life uses for math and to reinforce the lessons with hands-on work. Once a week the students from Longfellow are joined by island homeschoolers at the shop where they work on the boat and related projects.

What does a school day in the "sheep-shack" look like?

Tony says, "we have the olders come first and work together to learn a new concept or skill. When the

youngers arrive, the olders are in charge of running stations and teaching this new material to them. As you know, it's really when you try to teach something that you really learn it! We've really been enjoying this mixed-age shop time." On Saturdays, there is open shop, where students and adults have been putting time into build the skiff. You are invited to join them or just stop by to be inspired by this amazing project.



This is the first time Boatworks has been able to be part of the Longfellow school's curriculum and has been integrated into their school days.



Winefred "Wini" Smart

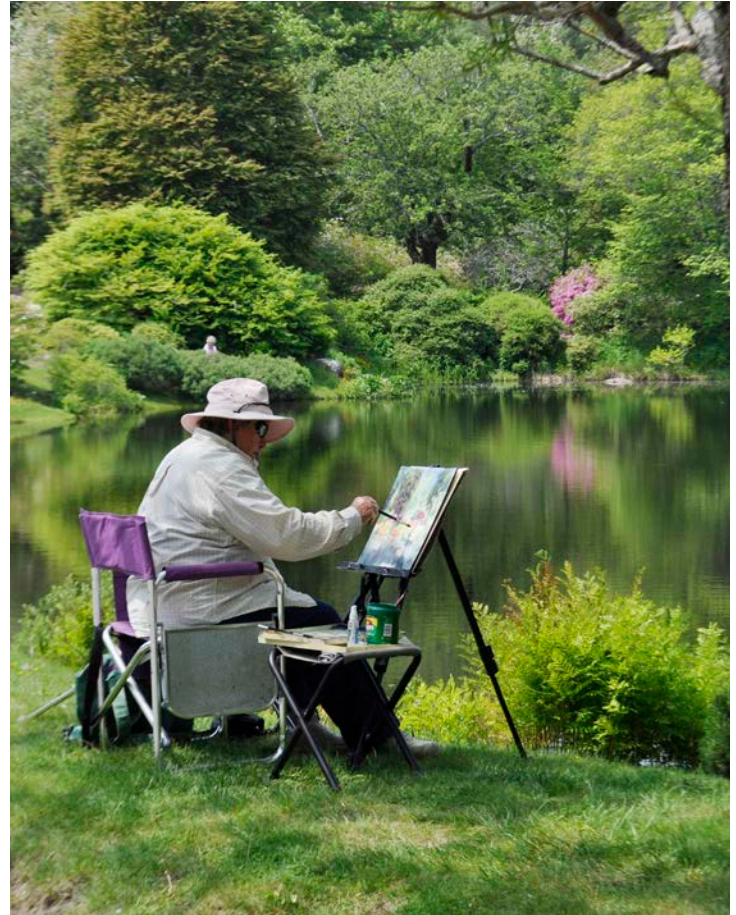
ROSALIE KELL

Acadia-area artist and longtime gallery owner Winifred "Wini" Smart died September 15 following a long illness. She was 85. Originally from New Jersey, she fell in love with the Maine coast when she first visited as a teenager. She returned often over the years, painting landscapes and seascapes.

In 1984, Smart moved to Great Cranberry Island. She was an early member of the Great Cranberry Island Historical Society and served as its president for 10 years. She and fellow island resident Bruce Komusin established the society's first museum in the old Longfellow School building in 2000. Eight years later, the museum moved to Cranberry House, which Smart and others raised funds to purchase, relocate and renovate. Wini and Fred Quackenbush were married in 2009 and he became an integral part of the team that supported the development of the Cranberry House.

Wini was dedicated to preserving the island's history, writing many publications. She has written several books, including her autobiography, *A Long, Long Way* in which she told of the "loves, tragedies and successes" of her life. Last year she published *Acadia and Me*, a book showcasing paintings she made in the park, to celebrate Acadia's centennial.

There will also be a memorial service on Great Cranberry next summer.



Wini Smart plein-air painting in Asticou Garden, ca. 2015

Photo: Rosalie Kell

Street Tacos with Shrimp & Beef

COURTESY OF HITTÝ'S CAFÉ

CHEF CÉZAR FERREIRA



Chef César Ferreira

Shrimp Scampi

- 4 tablespoons butter.
- 4 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, plus more for drizzling.
- 2 shallots, finely diced.
- 2 cloves garlic, minced.
- Pinch red pepper flakes, optional.
- 1 pound shrimp, peeled and deveined.
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper.

Beef Filling

- 1 6 oz prime sirloin steak
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon olive oil

Guacamole

- 3 medium avocados or 4 small ones;
- 1 firm tomato, finely diced;
- 1/2 white onion;
- 1/2 cup chopped cilantro;
- 2 tbsp fresh lemon or lime juice;
- Optional salt and pepper to taste.

Red Onion

- 1 Red onion, thinly sliced

Tortilla

- 6 4 inch street taco

White Cheddar Cheese

- 4 slices of white cheddar cheese

Preparation

Sauté garlic, shrimp, and olive oil.
Add your seasoning.

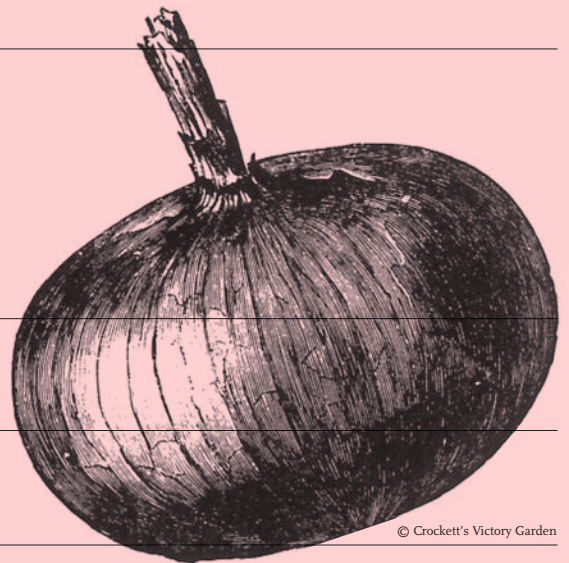
Prepare your sirloin steak, rub down with salt-and-pepper.
Add your oil and place steak on the grill pan, 8 minutes on each side.

Take your avocados and smash them with a fork and add your vegetables and seasoning.
Take your tacos and place them on the grill pan for about a minute and a half on each side.

Now its time to assemble. Put a slice of cheese & thinly sliced onions on each taco.

Next add 1/2 cup of the shrimp scampi and a few slices of the steak.

Top it off with a dollop of guacamole... there you are, having a Camp Out Street shrimp and beef taco. Enjoy!



© Crockett's Victory Garden

The Great Cranberry Island Historical Society
P.O. Box 12
Cranberry Isles, Maine 04625



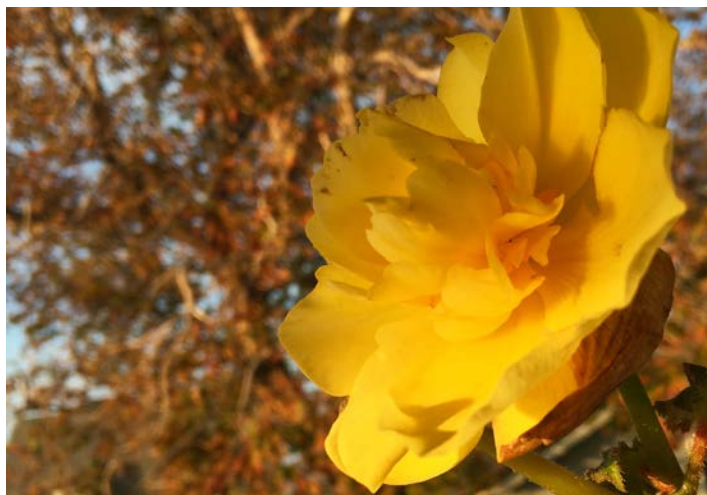
Sunset over Spurling Point on Great Cranberry Island

Order & Membership Form Instructions:

1. Copy this page, including your address mailing label, right.
2. Add the desired giving level of your Friends Membership.
3. Indicate Newsletters by Email if you prefer a digital copy.
4. Make check payable to GCIHS for grand total.
5. Mail using the enclosed pre-addressed envelope.

Website: gcihs.org Email: info@gcihs.org

Dues and donations can now be made via PayPal on the website.



Late summer begonia on Great Cranberry Island

Friends of Cranberry House Membership *Renewal for 1 year*

Indicate amount corresponding to the various giving levels.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend (\$25 to \$49) | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter (\$250 to \$499) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Friend (\$50 to \$99) | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron (\$500 to \$999) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donor (\$100 to \$249) | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor (\$1,000+) |

2017 Membership Year, if not already paid: \$

2018 Membership Year: \$

Grand Total \$

Please Send Future Newsletters as:

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☐ Printed copy

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Please complete if your name or address has changed from your printed label:

Name:

Address:

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Other notes: